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OATHS ACT

STATUTORY DECLARATION

I,(1) John Andrew McMILLAN

do solemnly and sincerely declare (2)

1) At midday on Wednesday January 17, 1990, Jenny Groves and I were sitting in the beer garden of the Hotel Turismo in Dili, East Timor, when the U.S. Ambassador (John Monjo) and his entourage checked into the hotel. Minutes later between eighty and one hundred students converged on the hotel and occupied the balcony of A-wing. The students, many of whom wore cloth masks to disguise their faces, unfurled banners written in English calling for Peace; Justice; and Independence for East Timor (Independence Or Dead, Integration No And Never Indonesia! Go Out From Our Country).

2) Within two or three minutes half a dozen soldiers armed with rifles trotted into the beer garden. Half a dozen rocks were thrown at the soldiers by demonstrators on the balcony. A couple of the soldiers hurled rocks back at the students on the balcony. Three students ran into the beer garden and were apprehended by the soldiers who kicked, punched and beat them with rifle butts. As those students were dragged away we sought refuge at the entrance to the hotel. From there we could see dozens of soldiers and Polizi gathering in the street. I returned to my room at the hotel to get a camera and tape recorder.

3) When I returned to the entrance to the hotel, the US Ambassador and his aides and their Indonesian hosts were listening to student leaders who were pleading with the Ambassador through

And I make this solemn declaration by virtue of the Oaths Act and conscientiously believing the statements contained in this declaration to be true in every particular.

Declared at Darwin the 23rd day of January 1990

(3) J. A. McMillan

(4) Delegation.

Before me,

(5) ROSYN LYNETTE REGATTIERI
COMMISSIONER OF OATHS (N.T.)
TELEPHONE: (089) 89 7955

(6) THIS DECLARATION MAY BE MADE BEFORE ANY PERSON WHO HAS ATTAINED THE AGE OF (18) EIGHTEEN YEARS.

NOTE: — A person wilfully making a false statement in a statutory declaration is liable to a penalty of $2000 or imprisonment for 12 months, or both.

Statutory Declaration by John Andrew Macmillan continued...

a megaphone. An interpreter told us that the students were apologising for the disturbance, that they were outlining human rights abuses perpetrated by the Indonesian military and calling for United Nations intervention in East Timor. The students claimed that they would be persecuted or killed for taking part in the demonstration.

4) Student leaders and the Ambassador spoke to each other through megaphones for an hour. Throughout this period, Indonesian officials cooperated with the Ambassador, giving the impression that free speech was a right in East Timor.

5) While riot police with shields and batons lined up on the street on either side of the hotel, plain clothes Indonesians videotaped, photographed and recorded the names of students. Jenny Groves and I were also photographed when Jenny continued to take photographs of the demonstration.

6) As the Ambassador left the hotel in a red Toyota at about 1:45 pm, the students surged beside and behind his car in order to gain safe passage away from the hotel. They were restrained by soldiers and police. When the Ambassador's car was fifty metres away, riot police and soldiers charged into the demonstrators, beating them with batons and rifle butts. The students were, at this point, on the street immediately in front of the hotel. Some students managed to escape. The rest, I would estimate forty in all, were clubbed and beaten into a human pile against the hotel's iron fence. Many were streaked with blood and obviously in shock. Students who scaled the fence and sought refuge amongst the five tourists and two diplomats sheltering at the entrance to the hotel were chased, kicked and beaten by soldiers with M-16 rifles.

7) As students in the human pile began praying and men in plain clothes dumped buckets of sand over pools of blood on the roadway, I saw one body, that of a young man, dumped onto the tray of a grey truck. A red rag was thrown over his face. Police climbing into the back of the truck kicked his body out of the way. He did not respond.

8) As soldiers and police stood back, under the restraining command of officers who were obviously aware of the presence of foreign on-lookers (I was two metres from the pile at this stage, watching over the fence), an International Red Cross worker moved in. The students disentangled themselves and straggled towards the Bishop's house two doors from the hotel. Many were crying and streaked with blood. Others retrieved bloodied sandshoes and footwear before moving to the Bishop's house.

9) One student threw a blood stained t-shirt to me. I placed the t-shirt on the tailgate of the utility I was leaning against. Within thirty seconds it had disappeared.

10) By 2:10 pm the street was virtually empty.

11) Later, in talking to an International Red Cross worker, we learnt that one student had been shot. He sought refuge by stumbling in the back door of the Red Cross house next to the hotel. There he collapsed and died on the floor, vomitting blood and the bullet that killed him. Soldiers kicked in the door to the Red Cross house to retrieve him. The Red Cross workers, of whom there were two, kept the bullet.